



Congressman Tim Bishop

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SENATORS SCHUMER, CLINTON AND REP. TIM BISHOP WELCOME FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LAB

Energy Department's Budget Proposal Bodes Well for RHIC and NSLS II Projects in FY07

WASHINGTON, DC - New York Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton and Congressman Tim Bishop welcomed increased funding proposed in the President's fiscal 2007 budget proposal for Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton. The budget outline contained increases for the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) and National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS II). The budget proposal will be formally announced on Monday and is subject to congressional approval later this year.

The Department of Energy's (DoE) proposed budget would increase funding for its nuclear physics program by \$87 million over last year. According to the DoE, the increase will be used, in part, to restore operations at the RHIC. It marks a significant departure from the President's budget proposal last year, which contained steep funding cuts to the RHIC.

"This funding is great news for Brookhaven National Lab and today's announcement shows that there is a strong commitment by the Administration to placing a high priority on scientific advancement," Senator Schumer said. "The funding is a step in the right direction and now we must keep our efforts focused throughout the appropriations process to ensure that this money goes to Brookhaven's world-renowned programs and scientists."

"Considering the commitment the President has expressed in funding critical science and research in this country, we should expect nothing less than a major increase in funds for BNL," Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton said. "Physicists from all over the world utilize this essential facility, making it an international treasure attracting the brightest scientific minds to Long Island. It deserves our nation's full support."

"We are still early in the process, but this already represents a positive sea change in the President's support for Brookhaven National Lab," Bishop said. "I am pleased that the President's budget proposal meets the scientific priorities he outlined during the State of the Union. I will continue to work with leaders in Congress to secure this critical funding for Brookhaven Lab and for the world-renowned scientists whose innovation and advanced research skills deserve to be rewarded."

The NSLS II, an advanced scientific initiative, will receive \$45 million in new funding to begin design and development of a state-of-the-art facility. The physical site of the NSLS II system

has not been selected, however, the New York Congressional delegation has been working hard to site the facility at BNL. The funds for design and development for NSLS II will be administered by BNL.

Senators Schumer, Clinton and Congressman Bishop met with the Energy Department's Science Director, Ray Orbach, earlier this year to discuss the benefits of fully funding RHIC and NSLS II following a dramatic funding shortfall for both programs at the end of the last budget cycle. Schumer, Clinton and Bishop are scheduled to meet with Energy Department Secretary Samuel W. Bodman next week to continue their push for full funding of the lab's projects.

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